

Origins and dating of Baillon's "*Catalogue des Mammifères, Oiseaux, Reptiles, Poissons et Mollusques testacés marins, observés dans l'arrondissement d'Abbeville*" with special regard to new taxa

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ABSTRACT: Several original descriptions of birds and mammals appeared in the *Catalogue des Mammifères, Oiseaux, Reptiles, Poissons et Mollusques testacés marins, observés dans l'arrondissement d'Abbeville*, published by Louis Antoine François Baillon in the *Mémoires de la Société Royale d'Emulation d'Abbeville*. Although it is generally accepted that Baillon's Catalogue was published in 1834, recent publications and online databases mention the year 1833. For the sake of nomenclature stability and taxon dating we provide here evidence that Baillon's Catalogue was released in 1834. Beside *Anser brachyrhynchus* which is currently in use as a valid name, nine other taxon names are concerned (four mammals and five birds).

KEYWORDS: date of publication, *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Louis Antoine François Baillon, *Mémoires de la Société d'Emulation d'Abbeville*, ICZN Code.

INTRODUCTION

While researching the description of new taxa, dating of publications is crucial in regard to the Principle of Priority stated in the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, hereinafter the Code (ICZN, 1999, see Arts. 21, 22, 23 and 24). For various reasons, dates printed on publications, especially old works, do not always accurately reflect the facts. Authors and publishers sometimes could not anticipate problems, they were waiting for more contributions in order to reduce the price of printing or were merely a little too optimistic, resulting in a delay of some days, weeks or even months before their works were eventually released. For more detail regarding problems with publication dates we warmly encourage readers to refer to Dickinson (2010) and Bousquet (2017) as well as to the very detailed work by Dickinson *et al.* (2011).

The *Catalogue des Mammifères, Oiseaux, Reptiles, Poissons et Mollusques testacés marins, observés dans l'arrondissement d'Abbeville*, hereinafter "the Catalogue" or "Baillon's Catalogue", includes the introduction of one new genus and descriptions of nine new species of animals. It was published in the *Mémoires de la Société Royale d'Emulation d'Abbeville*, hereinafter the *Mémoires*. The *Mémoires* were published by the *Société Royale d'Emulation*

d'Abbeville, hereinafter “SEA”,¹ created in 1797 and still active nowadays. The SEA dealt, and still does, mainly with local history and archeology, and Baillon’s Catalogue seems to be one of the very few contributions about natural history. Amongst the nine species described in this work, we find the description of *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Pink-footed Goose), a name still in use nowadays. The eight remaining names can be found in synonymy (see below).

Louis Antoine François Baillon (1778-1855)² was born in Montreuil-sur-Mer and lived most of his life in Abbeville (Somme department, Hauts-de-France, France). Until his death he was an active member of the SEA and naturally published the Catalogue, his only contribution, in the *Mémoires*.

ORIGINS OF BAILLON’S CATALOGUE

The first catalogue that Baillon prepared about the local fauna of the western part of the far north of France was a manuscript³ entitled *Catalogue des oiseaux observés dans les départements de la Somme et de la Seine-Inférieure*⁴ (Figure 1). It was sent in 1812 to the *Académie d’Amiens* (capital of the Somme department) in order to satisfy a request for the *Statistique* of the Somme department (Michel, 1902: 106 under n° 937). This hand written catalogue does not provide any descriptions and is a mere list of birds observed in the Somme and Seine-Maritime departments. A list of reptiles and amphibians is included at the end.

Most likely between March 22nd and April 20th of the year 1833, a second catalogue was sent to the *Académie d’Amiens* for the same reasons as mentioned above. This new catalogue was entitled *Catalogue des mammifères, poissons, amphibiens et coquilles de l’arrondissement d’Abbeville* (Boucher de Perthes, 1834: 583-584, see under *Séance du 22 mars 1833* and *Séance du 20 avril 1833*; Anonymous, 1835; Prarond, 1857: 649 footnote 1). Although this new catalogue only concerned the surroundings of Abbeville, and not all of the Somme and Seine-Maritime departments, it is most likely an expansion of the catalogue prepared in 1812. Indeed, one can expect the fauna of Somme and Seine-Maritime departments being very close, if not the

¹ The SEA has undergone changes in its name that reflect the different political systems that France faced during the 19th Century. Thus, from its beginning until 1814, the SEA was named *Société d’Emulation d’Abbeville*. From then until 1848, due to the restoration of the Monarchy, its name changed to *Société Royale d’Emulation d’Abbeville*. From 1848 to 1853, its name reverted briefly to *Société d’Emulation d’Abbeville*. After which, and until 1871, due to the return of Empire, its name became *Société Impériale d’Emulation d’Abbeville*. Its name then became *Société d’Emulation d’Abbeville*, until 1888, when the name changed to *Société d’Emulation Historique et Littéraire d’Abbeville* more commonly referred to as *Société d’Emulation d’Abbeville*. More details about the SEA can be found in Delignière (1873), Ledieu (1901) and Legrand (1986), and at <https://www.societe-emulation-abbeville.com>.

² He was the son of Jean François Emmanuel Baillon (1742-1801), a co-founder of the SEA, who started a collection of natural history exhibits known as the Baillon Collection whose birds are housed in La Châtre, Centre-Val de Loire, France. For more detail about Baillon father and son, see Goret (1803), and Prarond (1857); for details about the Baillon Collection, see Gouraud (2014a, 2014b, 2015).

³ This catalogue is part of a bigger manuscript (208 pages) compiled by Armand Boucher de Crèvecœur, nephew of Jacques Boucher de Perthes (born Boucher de Crèvecœur in 1788), and entitled *Mémoires détachés faisant suite à la Statistique d’Abbeville*. See Michel (1902: 106 under n°937). The Amiens Library staff very kindly provided the authors with a scanned copy of the 13 pages that make up the Baillon’s manuscript - the second page being a blank page, (pages 209-222 in Boucher de Crèvecœur’s manuscript, see Figure 1 for the title page i.e. page 209).

⁴ Since 1955, the *Seine-Inférieure* is named *Seine-Maritime*.

same, to that encountered around Abbeville, which is located in the Somme department. Finally, while birds are the main subject of the 1812 catalogue, they are absent from the 1833 list sent to Amiens according to their differing titles. We failed to find the 1833 catalogue in Amiens.⁵

It seems that the Catalogue (Figure 2) which was eventually published in the *Mémoires* was the reunion of the lists of both 1812 (an updated list of the birds) and 1833 (mammals, fish, reptiles and shells as per the title). The published catalogue that was supposed to cover mammals, birds, fish, reptiles (including amphibians) and shells in fact did cover all but the fish and the shells. Indeed Baillon ended his Catalogue saying that the completion will appear in the next volume [*La suite paraîtra dans la prochaine publication de la Société*]. This never appeared as attested by Boucher de Crèvecœur (1889: 424). Prarond (1857: 649) explained that the list sent to Amiens in 1833 was most likely the one that appeared in the *Mémoires* but because the volume was already in press only a part of it eventually got published; he then wondered if the list sent to Amiens was not more complete than the one published [*c'est probablement ce catalogue que la Société imprima; mais comme le volume était déjà sous-pressé depuis longtemps, peut-être le mémoire envoyé à Amiens est-il plus complet que celui que nous possédons.*]⁶ As the list sent to Amiens in 1833 does not contain any birds, and is therefore different from the Catalogue, it cannot be considered as a preprint of the latter in the sense of the Code.

Finally, Dufour (1856: 621 under n° 687) mentioned 150 separates of the Catalogue. This document bears the same title as the Catalogue and has been published by the same publisher (i.e. *Boulanger*). Those separates seem to be undated and were anyway printed after the Catalogue. Therefore the first valid publication of Baillon's Catalogue in the sense of the Code is that in the *Mémoires*.

Dating of the different volumes that constitute the *Mémoires* are not straight-forward and for Volume I that especially concerns us here 1833 and 1834 are given by different authors. To help avoid perpetuation of errors in the literature and thus increase stability and decrease ambiguity of taxon dating, we offer here an array of evidence to clarify the situation.

THE DATING OF THE MÉMOIRES

Although as far as we know only a single volume of the *Mémoires* contains original descriptions we will first give some publishing details of the different series that make the *Mémoires* up. The first series consisted in irregular works published as reports between 1797 and 1832 (Delignière, 1873; Boucher de Crèvecœur, 1905). The second series spread over 35 years from 1833 to 1868 and comprises the first 12 volumes. The third series, consisting in four volumes started in 1869 and ended in 1886. Finally the fourth and last series covers no less than 117 years (1887 to 2004) totalling 29 volumes; the last having been published in 2005 (Jean-Jacques Becquet *in litt.* 13 June 2018).

⁵ All the archives of the *Académie d'Amiens* have been transferred to the Departmental Archives of Somme (Samsonette Cosserat *in litt.* 8 October 2015). Neither the Departmental Archives of Somme (Xavier Daugy and Olivier de Solan *in litt.* 2 November 2015) nor Amiens Library (Catherine Preveral *in litt.* 10 September 2015) have the catalogue.

⁶ Prarond did not mention the list sent to Amiens almost 20 years earlier, i.e. in 1812.

The Catalogue was published in the first volume (second series) on pages 49-80.⁷ The date mentioned on the cover (Figure 3) as well as the imprint from the title page (Figure 4) for this volume is 1833 and is therefore the date many authors referred to, especially until the 1930s' (for instance Prarond, 1857: 649; Delignières, 1873: i; Boucher de Crèvecœur, 1889: 424; Salvadori, 1895: 103; Boucher de Crèvecœur, 1905: viii; Peters, 1931: 148; Richmond Index⁸). The *Index Animalium* of Sherborn (1924: 855) is one of the first that dates *Anser brachyrhynchus* to 1834 as '1833 (1834), 74'. Since then, most works, especially checklists, refer to 1834 (see for instance Ronsil, 1949: 29 under n° 129; Carboneras, 1992: 581; Dickinson, 2003: 62; Boyd 2005: 270; Dickinson & Remsen, 2013: 10; Carboneras, 2014: 130). The second edition of volume 1 of Peters's checklist, published in 1979, changed the date to 1834 and cited '*Anser Brachyrhynchus* Baillon, 1834, Mém. Soc. Roy. Emulation Abbeville, sér 2, no 1 (1833), p. 74' (Johnsgard, 1979: 436). Although checklists of birds of the world nowadays refer to 1834 recent works or online databases still refer to 1833 (for instance Beolens *et al.*, 2014: 46; Lemaire & Arthur, 2014; INPN⁹).

Clues that the year of publication of the Catalogue is 1834 and not 1833 can be found on several pages from the Volume I of the *Mémoires* where Baillon's Catalogue appeared. Page 593 lists members of the SEA on date December 31, 1833. One could argue that this listing could have been projected on the last day of the calendar year, as pointed out by Alan Peterson.¹⁰ Nevertheless, the same listing is signed by the President of the SEA [i.e. Boucher de Perthes] on December 31, 1833 (see page 601). Boucher de Perthes also signed the meeting that took place on December 27, 1833, as well as the last meeting of 1833 that took place on December 30 (see pages 592 and 595, respectively). In the light of the above, we can reasonably assume that Volume I of the *Mémoires* was published at the very earliest on January 1, 1834. A study of the *Bibliographie de la France* for years 1833 and 1834 confirmed that the 1st volume of the *Mémoires* was published in 1834. The *Bibliographie de la France* lists all works that were published in French. We did not find any mention of the publication of the Volume I of the *Mémoires* in this *Bibliographie* for the year 1833. Volume I of the *Mémoires* appeared only on the issue released on June 7, 1834.¹¹ The list that Baillon sent to the *Académie d'Amiens* in 1833 (before April 20) was therefore published only a year later, certainly after January 1, 1834, and certainly before June 7, 1834. For years 1833 and 1834 the *Bibliographie de la France* appeared steadily every Saturday and therefore comprises 52 issues for each year. It is most likely that Volume I of the *Mémoires* was released a couple of weeks or so before its mention in the *Bibliographie de la France* but no specific date has been found and with regard to Art. 21.4 of the Code, the date of publication that should be retained for

⁷ Note that Ronsil (1949: 29 under n° 129) incorrectly referred to pages 52-80 for birds; in fact birds are listed in pages 56-78. The title given by Ronsil is also incorrect and reads *Catalogue des Mammifères, Oiseaux, Reptiles, Poissons, Mollusques et Cétacés [sic] marins*, where '*Mollusques testacés marins*' should be read instead of '*Mollusques et Cétacés marins*'.

⁸ Richmond Index at <http://www.zoonomen.net/cit/RI/SP/RIspTotal.html>. Accessed on 10 June 2018.

⁹ Inventaire National du Patrimoine Naturel (INPN): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/2725. Accessed 10 June 2018.

¹⁰ See endnote for *Anser brachyrhynchus* on www.zoonomen.net. Accessed on 10 June 2018.

¹¹ See *Bibliographie de la France ou Journal Général de l'Imprimerie et de la Librairie*, 23^e année, N° 23 (7 juin 1834) on page 369 under n° 3109. <https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k6205164h/f379.item>. Accessed on 10 June 2018.

the publication of Baillon's Catalogue is the most recent date where this work is mentioned, i.e. June 7, 1834.

TAXA CONCERNED

One genus name and nine species names were validly introduced by Baillon in his Catalogue. They include four species names of mammals and five species names of birds.

Mammals:

- *Vespertilio humoralis* Baillon, 1834: 50, a junior synonym of *Myotis mystacinus* (Kuhl, 1817)
- *Vespirtilio* [sic] *brachyotos* Baillon, 1834: 50, a junior synonym of *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* (Schreber, 1774)
- *Lemmus Pratensis* Baillon, 1834: 53, a junior synonym of *Myodes glareolus* (Schreber, 1780)
- *Lemmus rubidus* Baillon, 1834: 54, a junior synonym of *Myodes glareolus* (Schreber, 1780)

Birds:

- *cormoranus* Baillon, 1834: 76, a junior synonym of *Phalacrocorax* Brisson, 1760, and used new combination: *Cormoranus carbo* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *cormoranus crassirostris* Baillon, 1834: 77, a junior synonym of *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis* (Blumenbach, 1798)
- *Anser Brachyrhynchus* ¹² Baillon, 1834: 74, name still valid nowadays
- *Scolopax Lamotti* Baillon, 1834: 71, a junior synonym of *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *Scolopax Pygmea* Baillon, 1834: 71, a junior synonym of *Gallinago gallinago gallinago* (Linnaeus, 1758)
- *Anthus Tristis* Baillon, 1834: 62, a junior synonym of *Anthus pratensis pratensis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

¹² Different spellings can be found in the literature e.g. *Anser brachyrhynchus* (Palmer, 2000: 63; Dicks *et al.*, 2013: 472) and *Anser brachyrhynchos* (Schlegel, 1867: 112; Johnston, 1999: 443).

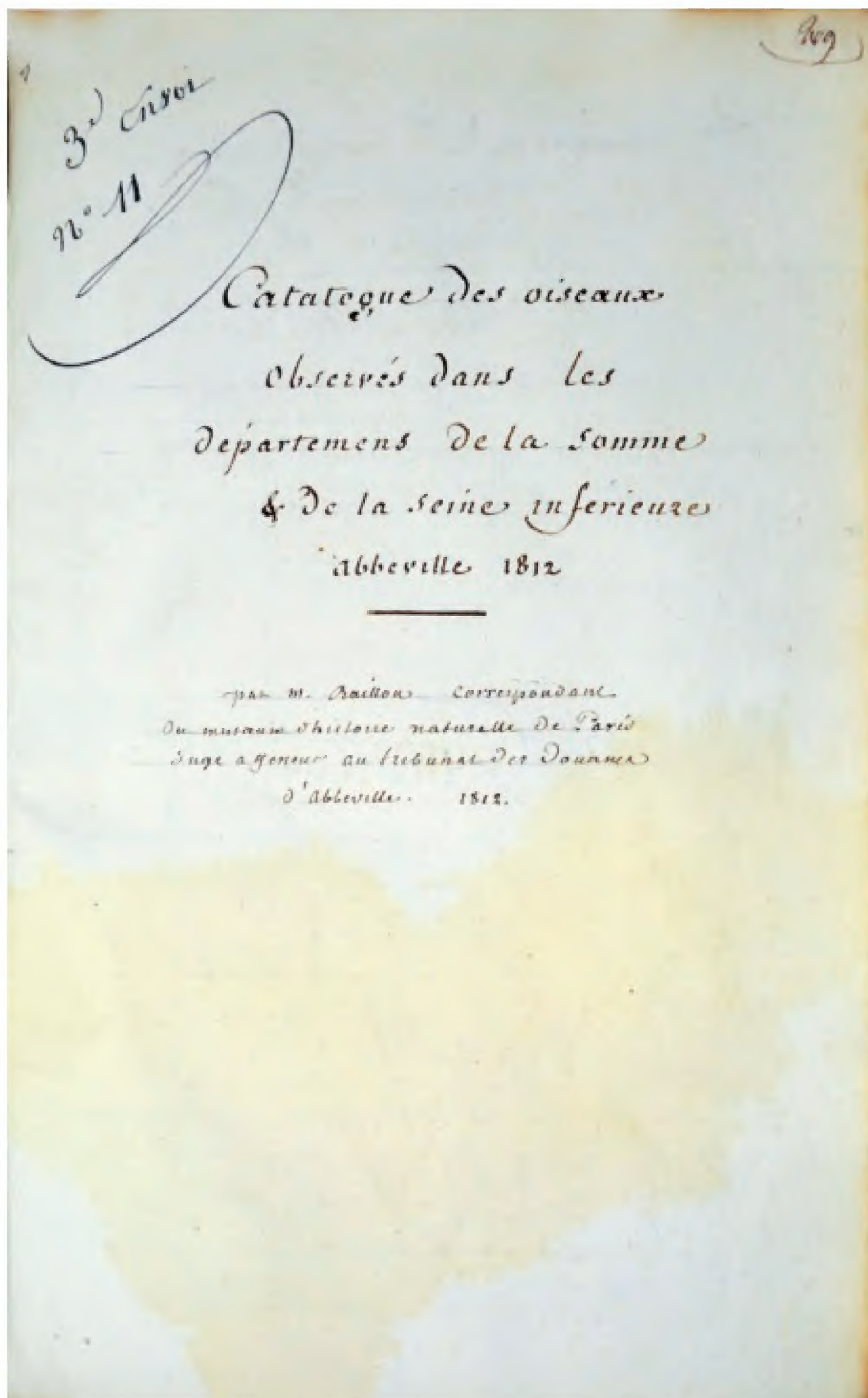


Figure 1. Title page of the 1812 manuscript 'Catalogue des oiseaux observés dans les départements de la Somme et de la Seine-Inférieure'. [Source: Manuscript N° 937, pages 209-222, Service Patrimoine, Bibliothèques d'Amiens Métropole].

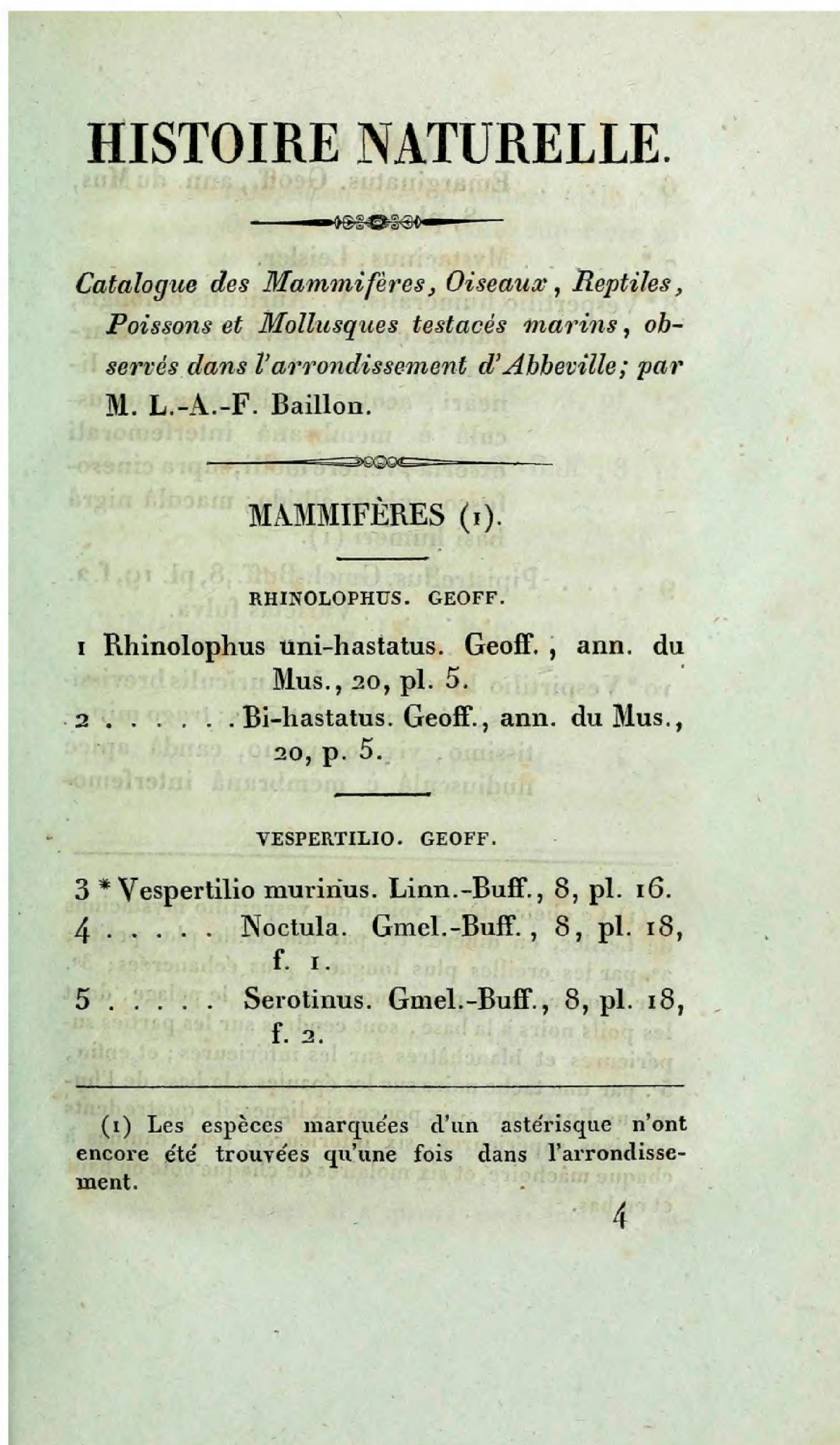


Figure 2. First page of Baillon's Catalogue published in Volume 1 (year 1833) of the *Mémoires*. [Source: Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by the Natural History Museum Library, London. <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/106576#page/63/mode/1up>].

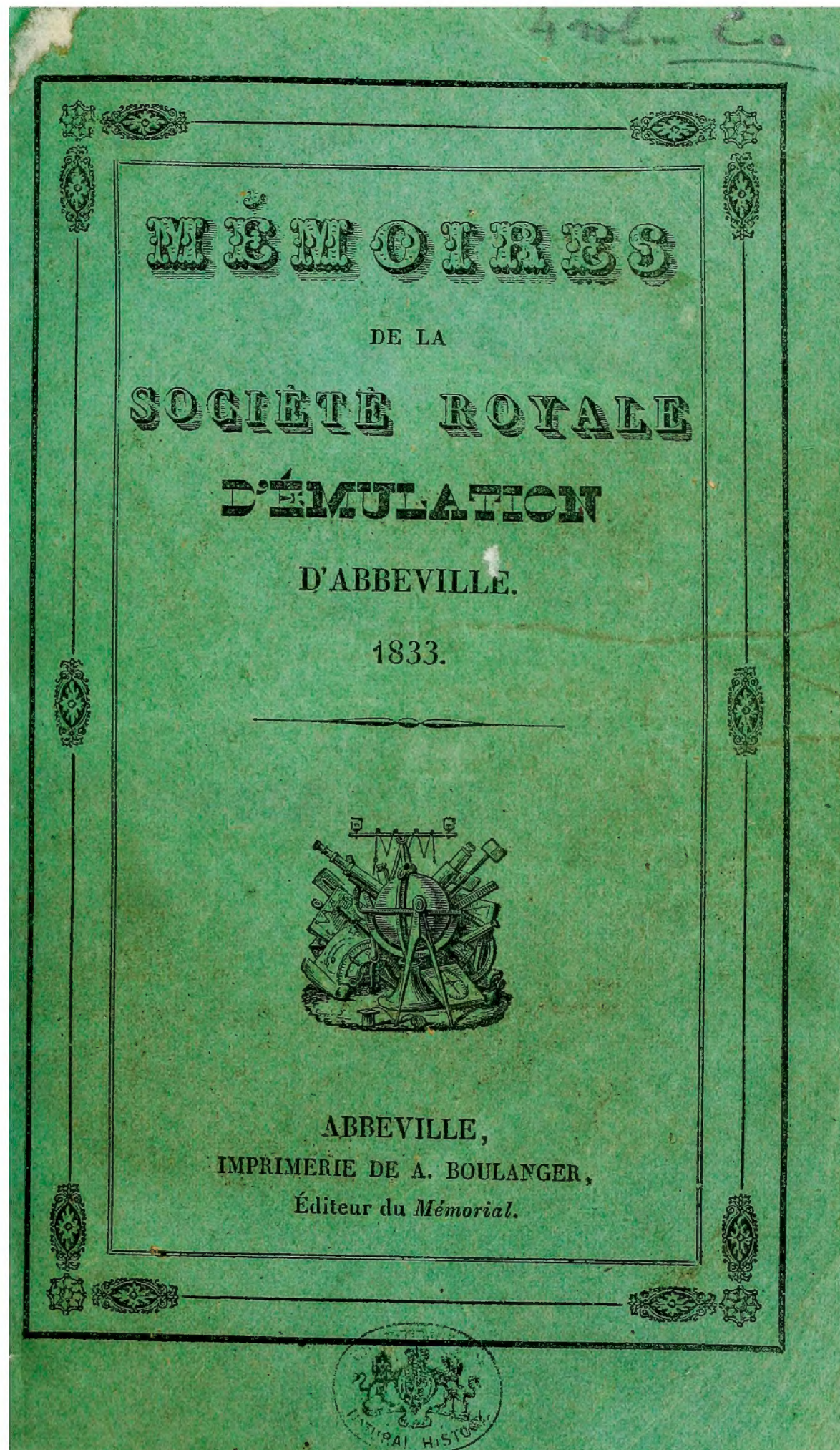


Figure 3. Cover of Volume I (year 1833) of the *Mémoires*. [Source: Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by the Natural History Museum Library, London.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/106576#page/7/mode/1up>.].

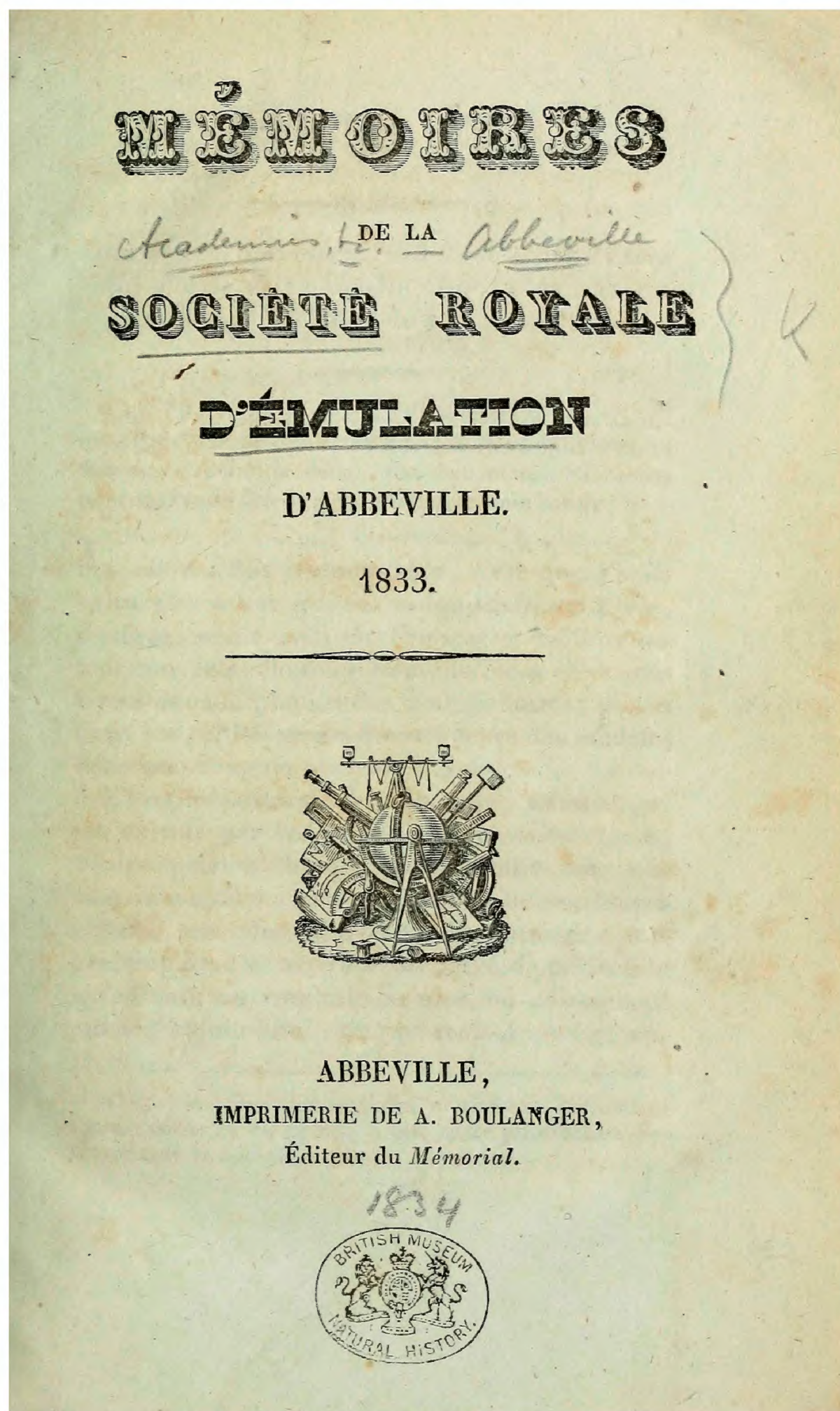


Figure 4. Title page of Volume I (year 1833) of the *Mémoires*. [Source: Image from the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Digitized by the Natural History Museum Library, London.

<https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/106576#page/11/mode/1up>].

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¹³ Within our text we have translated this as “volume” which will be widely understood. We must remark however that the French word “tome” is sometimes used for a couple or a set of volumes in a series.

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¹⁴ Although 1948 is given on the title page, this work was published in 1949. Evidence is to be found on the page following the *errata & corrigenda* (page 534) where it says 'printing completed on April 29, 1949' (*achevé d'imprimer le 29 avril 1949*).

¹⁵ As recommended by Dickinson & Pieters (2011: Appendix I) and thus date 1867 applies.